

in blank ballots. It just didn't make sense. Several people believed most of the blank votes were simply stuffed into the ballot boxes to defraud Preval.

Added to such election woes, almost 10 per cent of the tally sheets disappeared and several supporters found thousands of burned ballots smoldering in a garbage dump in Port-au-Prince.

The suspicions of fraud and the delay in announcing a winner triggered pro-Preval demonstrations that virtually shut down the capital and raised the real fear that riots would turn deadly.

The problem in the Caribbean country is that it doesn't have a tradition of electoral politics and its fledgling democratic institutions are weak. The judiciary is far from being independent and the security forces are untrained and often heavy-handed. To add to such woes, the powerful elite isn't concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy. Instead, it is committed to furthering its nest at the expense of progress and peace.

What the country needs the most is a government committed to economic and social progress. Such an administration would need all of the help it can get from both inside and outside of the country. Now that Preval has demonstrated that he has the people's support through relatively free and fair elections, the international community must step forward and live up to its responsibility providing the much promised but never delivered massive financial and technical support.

At the same time Preval, who is the only elected President to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown, must reach out to his opponents in a meaningful fashion in order to be able to deliver on his election promises.

Just as important, the Haitian Diaspora in North America must back the government and help to keep it focused on its key task, and that is to lift the nation out of deep poverty and despair.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA A. WOOTEN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a community is only as great as those individuals who perform exemplary service on its behalf, whether through unique achievement in professional endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship. The Honorable Priscilla A. Wooten is one of the most distinguished members of our community and is most deserving of this tribute.

Priscilla Wooten, a devoted mother, grandmother, and community leader, has lived in the East New York community for over 50 years. Ms. Wooten was a dedicated employee of the New York City Board of Education for many years. From January 1982 through January 2002 she served on the New York City Council. She has also served as Chairperson of the Education Committee and as a member of the Finance, Health, and Elections Committees.

Additionally, she also found time to serve on such boards as the Commission on Students of African Descent, the New York Collaborative for Excellence, the NAACP and others too numerous to mention.

Ms. Wooten is a Deaconess of the Greater Bright Light Missionary Baptist Church and

has spent countless hours sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and being a friend to the friendless. She is a woman who dared to be different.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her life-long commitment to the people of New York, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to bestow upon Priscilla A. Wooten this honor with the highest respect and esteem.

#### NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day, which is celebrated today around the world.

National Sportsmanship Day raises awareness about issues relating to sportsmanship and ethics in athletics as well as daily life. Athletic competition can teach students, coaches, and parents valuable lessons that can be applied on and off the field. With increased pressure to succeed placed upon today's athletes and students, the importance of ethics, honesty and fair play have never been more necessary.

Given the heightened demand for accomplishment in today's society, the idea of participation and fitness in many aspects of sport is often lost. Forgetting this important basis of athletic competition, students often are forced to maintain a 'win at all costs' mentality. Each year, the Institute for International Sport, based in my district in Kingston, Rhode Island, provides the opportunity to counter these notions through meaningful dialogue among school administrators, coaches, teachers, and students on the subject of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship.

The 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day strives to foster sportsmanship through the defeat of gamesmanship, the practice of ethically dubious methods to gain an objective. Through activities and discussions, more than 13,000 schools throughout the United States and around the world will participate in these events to spread honest athletics.

Each year, National Sportsmanship Day recognizes a number of athletes who offer a tribute to their respective sport and enhance their skills with their desire to play fairly. This year, the Institute for International Sport has selected their Sports Ethics Fellows from a number of players, coaches, and school administrators at the high school level. With both their simultaneous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence, they model and promote the virtues of the student-athlete in the truest sense.

I hope that my colleagues can join with me on this day in celebrating and promoting the continued success of National Sportsmanship Day. With its moral, ethical and fitness components, today's activities can promote a healthy and more active community amongst our nation's youth, and support a team oriented future for our country of sports enthusiasts.

#### A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CRUZ

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evelyn Cruz, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Evelyn Cruz was born and raised in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. One of four children and the only daughter, she attended Transfiguration School where she learned at an early age the value of community service. Her Puerto Rican working-class parents, Luis and Graciela, instilled in Evelyn the value of hard work, dedication, and respect for others. As the granddaughter of activist grandparents, she learned how to advocate and fight for fairness in housing, healthcare, education and community services.

Evelyn has dedicated most of her life toward the betterment of her community. During her high school years, she was vice-president of her sophomore class and a member of several school clubs. In 1977, she was elected one of the youngest representatives on the then NYC Area Policy Board, where she reviewed budget proposals, participated in public hearings and allocated community development funding to local community based organizations. At the age of 16, she was the youngest recording secretary elected to serve on the 90th Precinct Community Council where she served for several terms. Years later, she was elected and served as the President of the Precinct Council.

In the 1980s, during New York City's drugs and AIDS epidemics, Evelyn organized her community and led the fight to reclaim her neighborhood streets and parks from drug dealers. As the co-founder of the March Against Drugs, Inc., she organized annual anti-drug community marches and drug prevention fairs for more than 10 years.

While attending John Jay College part-time and working full-time at Merrill Lynch for a successful mother and daughter financial consultant team, Evelyn gained valuable experience in client-relations, the financial markets, and real estate.

Evelyn has been profiled in NY's Newsday, El Diario La Prensa, The New York Times, and Talk Radio. She enjoys sports and is a three-time MVP softball player, women's handball champ and a great paddleball player. Some her favorite books are Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, and George Orwell's *1984*.

Evelyn is passionate about public service and her work in the community. In 1992, she left the private sector and joined the congressional staff of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.

Evelyn's work in the community has shaped her into a leader, an advocate, and an instrument for social change. She hopes to continue to share her knowledge and experience with her neighbors in the hopes of ongoing change and improvement—and looks forward to a bright future for the borough she calls home—Brooklyn.